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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,131	06/14/2001	Jun Takahashi	03310/017001	8113
22511	7590	02/02/2004		EXAMINER
ROSENTHAL & OSHA L.L.P. 1221 MCKINNEY AVENUE SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			SCHWARTZ, PAMELA R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				1774

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/881,131	TAKAHASHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Pamela R. Schwartz	1774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 6-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 7-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

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1. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa et al. (4,954,395). Hasegawa et al. disclose a recording medium having an ink transporting layer and an ink retaining layer on a support. The support may be a conventional material (see col. 3, lines 59-61). The ink transporting layer, which is the outermost coating layer comprises particulate material, binder, surfactant and penetrant (see col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 3). The ink transporting layer may include inorganic pigments which may be silica (col. 4, line 65 to col. 5, line 6). The surfactant may be nonionic and may be a triethanolamine (see col. 8, lines 9-52). The ratio of surfactant to colorant fixing materials may be 1/100 to 0/1. The ink retaining layer may include cationic starch an quaternized polyvinylpyrrolidone, both of which are cationic materials (see col. 6, lines 3-28). Since the layer may include more than one binder, it may include both a cationic resin and another or additional hydrophilic resins.

2. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

3. Based upon applicants' amendments, all previous grounds of rejection have been withdrawn. The arguments of record are moot with respect to the new ground of rejection.

Claims 6, which requires polyester binder to be present as a main component by weight in the ink permeable layer, has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. While polyester is a known binder material

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in this art, the reference appears to teach away from the use of polyester in the ink transporting layer by omitting polyester from the list of examples of binder for the ink transporting layer in col. 5 and then including polyester in the list for the ink retaining layer in col. 6.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pamela R. Schwartz whose telephone number is (571) 272-1528. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly, can be reached (571) 272-1526.

PRSchwartz
January 24, 2004



PAMELA R. SCHWARTZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER